

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication terminal comprising:

acquiring means for acquiring ~~a value-entity~~ electronic currency accompanied by a public key corresponding to a private key, the ~~value-entity~~ electronic currency usable as a charge in electronic procurement;

storing means for storing the electronic currency in the communication terminal;

receiving means for receiving an application electronically signed by the private key, through an ad hoc network, the application for transmitting some or all of the ~~value-entity~~ electronic currency from the storing means in the communication terminal ~~of an amount equivalent to a consideration of a commodity or service~~ to a device external to the communication terminal when purchasing ~~the~~ a commodity or service;

verifying means for verifying the application through use of the public key;

transferring means for subtracting an amount of electronic currency from the electronic currency in the storing means equal to a charge for the commodity or service to determine a subtracted amount of electronic currency and transferring the ~~value-entity~~ subtracted amount of electronic currency to conduct electronic procurement through the ad hoc network to ~~[[a]]~~ the device external to the communication terminal by use of the application when the verifying means successfully verifies the application; and

deleting means for deleting the application after a predetermined time has elapsed since a time when the receiving means received the application.

2. (Previously Presented) The communication terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the verifying means initiates verification of the application after the receiving means receives the application, and

the communication terminal further comprises starting means for starting the application after the verifying means successfully verifies the application.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A communication terminal comprising:

acquiring means for acquiring ~~a value entity~~ electronic currency accompanied by a public key corresponding to a private key, the ~~value entity~~ electronic currency usable as a charge in electronic procurement;

storing means for storing the electronic currency in the communication terminal;

receiving means for receiving an application electronically signed by the private key, through an ad hoc network, the application for transmitting some or all of the ~~value entity~~ electronic currency from the storing means in the communication terminal ~~of an amount equivalent to a consideration of a commodity or service~~ to a device external to the communication terminal when purchasing ~~the~~ a commodity or service;

verifying means for verifying the application through use of the public key;

transferring means for subtracting an amount of electronic currency from the electronic currency in the storing means equal to a charge for the commodity or service to determine a subtracted amount of electronic currency and transferring the ~~value entity~~ subtracted amount of electronic currency to conduct electronic procurement through the ad hoc network to ~~[[a]]~~ the device external to the communication terminal by use of the application when the verifying means successfully verifies the application; and

deleting means for, when a communication with a sender of the application is disconnected after the reception of the application by the receiving means, deleting the

application after a predetermined time has elapsed since the disconnection of the communication.

5. (Currently Amended) A value entity providing server comprising providing means for providing ~~value entity~~ the electronic currency accompanied by ~~[[a]] the~~ public key corresponding to ~~[[a]] the~~ private key, through a cellular network, for the communication terminal as set forth in Claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) The value entity providing server according to Claim 5, wherein the providing means transmits the public key separately from the ~~value entity~~ electronic currency to the communication terminal, prior to the provision of the ~~value entity~~ electronic currency.

7. (Original) The value entity providing server according to Claim 5, wherein the public key is posted on a server accessible from a plurality of terminals through the cellular network.

8. (Currently Amended) The value entity providing server according to Claim 5, further comprising second verifying means for verifying integrity of the communication terminal before the providing means provides the ~~value entity~~ electronic currency.

9. (Currently Amended) An application delivery server comprising:
application transmitting means for transmitting the application through the ad hoc network to the communication terminal as set forth in Claim 1; and

~~value-entity~~ electronic currency acquiring means for acquiring the ~~value-entity~~ electronic currency transferred by the transferring means of the communication terminal, through the ad hoc network.

10. (Currently Amended) The application delivery server according to Claim 9, further comprising:

receipt transmitting means for, when the ~~value-entity~~ electronic currency acquiring means acquires the ~~value-entity~~ electronic currency, transmitting receipt data electronically expressing receipt of the ~~value-entity~~ electronic currency, via the ad hoc network to the communication terminal.

11. (Original) The application delivery server according to Claim 9, further comprising third verifying means for verifying integrity of the communication terminal before the transmitting means transmits the application.

12. (Currently Amended) An electronic procurement supporting method comprising:
acquiring a ~~value-entity~~ electronic currency accompanied by a public key corresponding to a private key, the ~~value-entity~~ electronic currency usable as a charge in electronic procurement;

storing the electronic currency in a storage unit of a communication terminal;

receiving an application electronically signed by the private key, through an ad hoc network, the application for transmitting some or all of the ~~value-entity~~ electronic currency from the storage unit in the communication terminal ~~of an amount equivalent to a consideration of a commodity or service~~ to a device external to the communication terminal when purchasing ~~the~~ a commodity or service;

verifying the application through use of the public key; ~~and~~
subtracting an amount of electronic currency from the electronic currency in the
storage unit equal to a charge for the commodity or service to determine a subtracted amount
of electronic currency;

transferring ~~the value entity~~ the subtracted amount of electronic currency to conduct
procurement through the ad hoc network to ~~[[a]]~~ the device external to the communication
terminal by use of the application when the application is successfully verified; and

deleting the application after a predetermined time has elapsed since a time when the
receiving means received the application.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium encoded with
instructions, which when executed by a computer causes the computer to implement an
electronic procurement supporting method comprising:

acquiring ~~a value entity~~ electronic currency accompanied by a public key
corresponding to a private key, the ~~value entity~~ electronic currency usable as a charge in
electronic procurement;

storing the electronic currency in a storage unit of a communication terminal;

receiving an application electronically signed by the private key, through an ad hoc
network, the application for transmitting some or all of the ~~value entity~~ electronic currency
from the storage unit in the communication terminal ~~of an amount equivalent to a~~
~~consideration of a commodity or service~~ to a device external to the communication terminal
when purchasing ~~the~~ a commodity or service;

verifying the application through use of the public key; ~~and~~

subtracting an amount of electronic currency from the electronic currency in the storage unit equal to a charge for the commodity or service to determine a subtracted amount of electronic currency;

transferring the ~~value entity~~ the subtracted amount of electronic currency to conduct procurement through the ad hoc network to ~~[[a]]~~ the device external to the communication terminal by use of the application when the application is successfully verified; and

deleting the application after a predetermined time has elapsed since a time when the receiving means received the application.

14. (Currently Amended) An electronic procurement supporting method comprising:
acquiring a ~~value entity~~ electronic currency accompanied by a public key corresponding to a private key, the ~~value entity~~ electronic currency usable as a charge in electronic procurement;

storing the electronic currency in a storage unit in a communication terminal;

receiving an application electronically signed by the private key, through an ad hoc network, the application for transmitting some or all of the ~~value entity~~ electronic currency from the storage unit in the communication terminal ~~of an amount equivalent to a consideration of a commodity or service~~ to a device external to the communication terminal when purchasing ~~the~~ a commodity or service;

verifying the application through use of the public key; ~~and~~

subtracting an amount of electronic currency from the electronic currency in the storage unit equal to a charge for the commodity or service to determine a subtracted amount of electronic currency;

transferring the ~~value entity~~ the subtracted amount of electronic currency to conduct procurement through the ad hoc network to ~~[[a]]~~ the device external to the communication terminal by use of the application when the application is successfully verified; and

deleting, when a communication with a sender of the application is disconnected after the reception of the application by the receiving means, the application after a predetermined time has elapsed since the disconnection of the communication.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium encoded with instructions, which when executed by a computer causes the computer to implement an electronic procurement supporting method comprising:

acquiring a ~~value entity~~ electronic currency accompanied by a public key corresponding to a private key, the ~~value entity~~ electronic currency usable as a charge in electronic procurement;

storing the electronic currency in a storage unit in a communication terminal;

receiving an application electronically signed by the private key, through an ad hoc network, the application for transmitting some or all of the ~~value entity~~ electronic currency from the storage unit in the communication terminal ~~of an amount equivalent to a consideration of a commodity or service~~ to a device external to the communication terminal when purchasing ~~the~~ a commodity or service;

verifying the application through use of the public key; ~~and~~

subtracting an amount of electronic currency from the electronic currency in the storage unit equal to a charge for the commodity or service to determine a subtracted amount of electronic currency;

transferring the ~~value entity~~ the subtracted amount of electronic currency to conduct procurement through the ad hoc network to [[a]] the device external to the communication terminal by use of the application when the application is successfully verified; and

deleting, when a communication with a sender of the application is disconnected after the reception of the application by the receiving means, the application after a predetermined time has elapsed since the disconnection of the communication.